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April 23, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE PRESENTATION

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket 10-90; *High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket 05-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

CenturyLink submits this letter for the record in the above-captioned proceeding to supplement the presentation it filed on March 25, 2013.¹ As explained in that filing, CenturyLink encouraged the Commission to respond quickly to strong public demand for broadband in unserved areas and to anchor institutions by adopting the proposal filed jointly by the ABC Coalition, the Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Association (ITTA), and the United States Telecom Association (USTelecom).² CenturyLink also explained that, with this proposal, well over 150,000 homes and businesses in areas served by CenturyLink would gain access for the first time to broadband as defined by the Commission. CenturyLink also noted the wide support from members of Congress for this proposal.

CenturyLink also explained during the meeting, as demonstrated in the presentation attached to the March 25 *ex parte* filing, that the actual construction and costs associated with deployment of the network required as a condition of Connect America Fund Phase I Incremental Support will be largely the same for all locations that lack access to such service. In support of this point, CenturyLink has conducted further analysis. On average, the locations in CenturyLink service areas covered by the proposal that currently can access broadband at 3 Mbps downstream through copper-fed remote DSLAMs have feeder routes that are only 16% shorter than the feeder routes to locations that are not served at even that speed.

As the Chief Executive Officers of CenturyLink, Inc., Frontier Communications Corp., and Windstream Corp. wrote on April 3, 2013, CenturyLink believes “our mission and the goals of the Commission are aligned” in working to ensure that “the benefits of broadband-enabled

¹ Letter dated March 25, 2013 from Melissa Newman, Senior Vice President, CenturyLink to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket 10-90.

² Comments of the ABC Coalition, ITTA & USTelecom, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket 10-90, filed Jan. 28, 2013.

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networks delivered as expeditiously as possible to all Americans.”³ This will promote economic growth and job creation, and it will facilitate our nation in meeting major national challenges like education, health care, energy and public safety. Therefore, “[a]dditional Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase I Incremental Support is critical to making this happen in rural, high cost, unserved communities.”

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this presentation is being filed in the above-referenced dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S Lanning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Lanning" clearly distinguishable.

Jeffrey S Lanning

Copy via e-mail to:
Michael Steffen
Julie Veach
Carol Matthey

³ Letter dated April 3, 2013 from Glen F. Post, III, CEO and President, CenturyLink, Maggie Wilderotter, Chairman and CEO, Frontier Communications, and Jeff Gardner, President and CEO, Windstream to The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket 10-90.